



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

NEW BOOKS REVIEWED

LIFE OF LORD KITCHENER. By Sir George Arthur. In Three Volumes. New York: The Macmillan Company.

Kitchener's greatness is of the sort that is difficult to estimate succinctly. To say that he was a great organizer is to give but a trite and specious summing up of a character too big to be included in a formula. To perceive that he was at the same time absolutely independent in his final judgments and eminently capable of co-operation, and of taking counsel, even to the extent of submitting his own opinions to authority, is to take a further step in understanding the man: these qualities are, indeed, essential to a great public servant, though not to an autocrat. Yet there was something more in Lord Kitchener—something that eludes the analysis both of the critic and the biographer.

The problem is rendered more difficult by the fact that his individual successes do not greatly strike the imagination; it is only the results, understood after some reflection, that are impressive. His strategy in the Boer War seems commonplace, though finally effective—and there were some mistakes, as at Paardeberg. "From the very nature of the campaign," says Sir George Arthur, "it might seem as if our signal successes in the field had been few in number and never sensational in character, whereas reverses to our arms had been salient features in the operations. But the secret of the ultimate British success lay in the folds of a steadfast continuity of logical purpose, while the 'setbacks' . . . were for the most part unavoidable incidents in a long and wearing, but coolly calculated, process, from which there could be no turning aside, and to which there could be but one end." It is all the more remarkable, under these circumstances, that Kitchener, though not exempt from criticism, should have been able to retain the entire confidence of the English people.

His fame might have shone brighter, one would think, if, in the manner of the "strong man" of fiction, he had completely steered his own course and imposed his judgment upon others above and below him. This, however, was not his way; he had the opposite disposition, even to excess. Though the Dardanelles Commissioners, "with their strange *penchant* for pecking at the reputation of a soldier who had just laid down his life for his country, chose to hold up Kitchener as habitually neglecting to consult his subordinates and as frequently giving orders over the heads of the Chiefs of Departments," 'his charge, as Sir Arthur conclusively shows, was without foundation. "When the Commission sat again, the members of the Army Council severally put on record their declaration that the Secretary of State

had never failed to consult them, had almost invariably accepted their advice on matters concerned with their respective departments, and had never given orders over the heads of these." Said Sir David Henderson: "I laughed when I read the Dardanelles Commission's Report and the accusation that Lord Kitchener did not take his military staff into his confidence. I have never dealt with a Senior Officer who took me so much into his confidence and gave me his opinion so frankly as Lord Kitchener."

In regard to the military operations at Gallipoli, he accepted unwillingly, and against his better judgment, the view of the First Lord of the Admiralty as to the power of battleships to force the straits. After the failure of the Navy, he had no illusions, as others did, about the possibility of winning the war through a continuation of the Gallipoli campaign; but he undertook land operations chiefly because he felt that only in this way could the position of Britain in the East be made secure—and safety in the East was "a main plank in his military policy." His principal object being, not to win the war by a single great stroke, but to punish the Turks, defend Egypt and impress the Moslem World, he wisely pressed, when the more ambitious attempts had failed, for the Ayas Bay project; and after this had been rejected, he advised evacuation—with the deepest regret, it is true, but without moral compromise or agitation of spirit,—his strongest feeling, we are told, being the fear that the withdrawal would be accompanied by undue loss of life.

Tenacity, steadfastness, consistency, and besides these the ability to consult and the self-command to give way without losing faith or loyalty—such traits are rare enough and great enough, but they do not explain the whole man. Lacking certain intellectual elements, a person possessing all these traits might fail of any large achievement. What were in Kitchener's case the intellectual factors?

A review of his whole career reveals not so much brilliancy, originality, or special insight as comprehensiveness, thoroughness, directness, with, as a corollary, a powerful, though not an unbending, will. A large grasp of the work before him and a meticulous attention to detail are as manifest in his surveys of Palestine and of Cyprus as in his later political and military activities. In Egypt he proceeded methodically, reckoning in every factor, minimizing the likelihood of error, and making sure of large results. In South Africa, his success was due to that far-reaching grasp of the whole problem which gave effect to patient methods. As to the defense of India, he had no very sensational or sweeping suggestions to make; and at no time did his policy as Commander-in-Chief seem revolutionary. Yet it is said on high authority that "but for Lord Kitchener's work India could never possibly have given the great help she has to the Empire during the War."

Perhaps, the biographer comes closest to the heart of the matter when he quotes the saying of William James that "in all ages the men whose determinations are swayed by the most distant ends have been held to possess the greatest intelligence." This is the thing in Kitchener which lesser men cannot copy,—which good intention, strong will, wide knowledge, and shrewd reasoning cannot duplicate.

One may express the truth in a different way by saying that Kitchener's character was magnificently rounded; for the greatest practical intelligence is associated, not always, indeed, with a many-sided culture, but most frequently, with an all-round development, with the exercise and growth of all the powers that make up a *man*. Kitchener was certainly not a man cut to formal pattern, no *factus ad unguem homo*, but the range of his sympathies, interests, energies, witnesses that vigor in every part which commonly means strength of the whole personality. He had a special love for engineering and for finance; he had archæological tastes and a particular fondness for old china; he had great diplomatic gifts and a zeal for education; he had a warm feeling for the East, he loved flowers, he was by no means lacking in humor; he was, in his later phase, sociable in a high degree; he was deeply religious. No practical knowledge or problem came amiss to him. "He would immerse himself agreeably in such subjects as the interplay between the Sunnis and Shiah sects or the place of the Sultan of Turkey *vis-à-vis* the Sherif of Mecca as religious hierarch of Islam." His mind was mathematical in its accuracy and definiteness, sane in its ability to allow for non-mathematical factors. It is from a man of this type that we can expect the kind of insight which caused Kitchener at the beginning of the War to plan for an army of seventy divisions, "coolly calculating that its maximum strength would be reached during the third year of the war, just when the enemy would be undergoing a sensible diminution of his resources in man-power."

The message that seems to come out of this book is that what the modern world requires is big men, rather than brilliant men. The lesser minds, in the big affairs, turn out to be not sufficiently well-rounded. One who is altogether military commander, politician, diplomatist, philosopher, or theorist, is not fit, however great his specialized ability, and however keen be his insight within his special province, to be placed in control of large issues. The combined wisdom of a people cannot save it without leadership, and the leader must have the comprehension, though not necessarily the proficiency, of all the specialists whom he employs, besides something else that perhaps none of them possesses.

THE PLAINSMAN AND OTHER POEMS. By Rhys Carpenter. New York: Oxford University Press.

Rhys Carpenter, like the late Francis Thompson—so different from him!—belongs undoubtedly to the classic line of English poets. In fact, Mr. Carpenter is much the more representative of the two. Thompson, clearly a genius, seems to show a certain decadence in the great tradition. Inheritor of the older ideas of beauty in thought and, particularly, in expression, he was carried so far by his peculiar temperament that we can scarcely tell, sometimes, whether he writes great poetry or inspired nonsense. His unrest, at least, is modern, and there is no serenity in him except a religious serenity sometimes forced. Mr. Carpenter, on the other hand, owns no distressing idiosyncrasies, and his appeal is truly impersonal—though to say "imper-